A BILL

—

IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

To authorize and provide for the issuance of grants to local news outlets through the creation of a system of coupons that may be allocated by registered voters to the news outlets of their choice, to establish registration and eligibility requirements for news outlets to participate in the grant program, to require each news outlet to hold grant funds in a separate account pending their expenditure, to create a statutory lien on the separate account in favor of the District to secure the news outlet’s obligation to comply with this act, to establish the Community Journalism Board as an independent executive branch agency to administer the provisions of this act, to authorize (subject to appropriations) the dedication of 0.1% of the District’s General Fund budget to fund the news coupon grant program, and to further authorize the Board to issue journalism development grants to support training and technical assistance to news outlets and individuals; and to make conforming changes.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, That this act may be cited as the “Local News Funding Act of 2023”.

TITLE I. NEWS OUTLET GRANT PROGRAM.

Sec. 101. Definitions.

For purposes of this title, the term:

(1) “Board” means the Community Journalism Board established by section 114 of this title.

(2) “District employee” means:
(A) Any individual paid by the District government, or an instrumentality of the District, from appropriated funds for his or her services or holding office in the District, other than employees of the District of Columbia courts; or

(B) A member of a board or commission who was nominated for a position pursuant to section 2(e) or (f) of the Confirmation Act of 1978, effective March 3, 1979 (D.C. Law 2-142; D.C. Official Code § 1-523.01(e), (f)) or who was appointed by the Council.

(3) “Donation” means a private gift of money or property to a news outlet and excludes the allocation or redemption of a news coupon.

(4) “Entity” means a person within the meaning of section 2 of the General Legislative Procedures Act of 1975, effective September 23, 1975 (D.C. Law 1-17; D.C. Official Code § 1-301.45), other than an individual.

(5) “Governing person” means, with respect to an entity:

(A) A person who acts as the chief executive officer of the entity;

(B) A person who is an officer or member of the entity’s governing board;

or

(C) Any other person that may directly or indirectly exercise control of the entity pursuant to its organizational documents, a contract, an arrangement, or an understanding or relationship; provided, that the term shall not include a person with less than 10 percent of the entity’s voting power.

(6) “Humanities council” means HumanitiesDC, or any successor humanities council for the District that is designated as such in accordance with section 7 of the National Foundation on the Arts and Humanities Act of 1965, approved September 29, 1965 (79 Stat. 850; 20 U.S. Code § 956).
(7) “Local news” means original reporting on events, occurrences, and people for the purpose of informing an audience about matters of interest to or significance for communities within the District; provided, that the term shall not include reporting on professional sports or marketing of a business owned by or affiliated with the publisher.

(8) “News coupon” means an instrument representing a unit fraction (where the fraction’s denominator equals the total number of news coupons being redeemed at one time) of the aggregate value of all redemption grants made at such time pursuant to section 111 of this title.

(9) “News outlet” means a person residing or incorporated in the District that publishes local news.

(10) “Owner” means a person who, with respect to an entity:

(A) Legally or beneficially owns at least 10 percent of the entity; or

(B) Has a right to receive at least 10 percent of the entity’s net income.

(11) “Patron” means the person in whose name a news coupon is issued.

(12) “Program account” means a separate deposit account that is subject to the jurisdiction of the District and that is owned exclusively by a news outlet for the purpose of holding program funds until their expenditure.

(13) “Program funds” means money deposited into a program account as a redemption grant, together with all interest and investment proceeds attributable to such money.

(14) “Quarter” means a period of three calendar months ending on the last day of March, June, September, or December.

(15) “Record date” means, with respect to any quarter, the 15th day of the last calendar month in the quarter.
“(16) “Redemption date” means, with respect to any quarter, the last business day of the quarter.

(17) “Redemption grant” means a grant from the District to a news outlet to redeem a news coupon pursuant to section 111 of this title.


(19) “Television” means video programming as defined in section 103 of the Cable Television Communications Act of 1981, effective October 9, 2002 (D.C. Law 14-193; D.C. Official Code § 34-1251.03); provided, that the term shall exclude video programming:

(A) On a noncommercial channel or station; or

(B) That is produced for distribution solely via the internet.

Sec. 102. Establishment of Local News Grant Program; eligibility criteria.

(a) There is established a Local News Grant Program, to be administered by the Board, to grant money to news outlets that report and publish local news. The recipient and amount of each grant shall be determined through a system of “news coupons” that allow registered voters to allocate grants to the registered news outlets of their choice, as more particularly described in this title.

(b) To be eligible to receive redemption grants and funding under this title, a news outlet shall:

(1) Register with the Board as provided in section 103;

(2) Agree to meet requirements relating to news reporting and disclosure, as set forth in section 104, and the use of program funds, as set forth in section 105;
(3) Meet the participation requirement set forth in section 106; and

(4) Not be otherwise disqualified by the Board.

Sec. 103. Registration.

(a) A news outlet shall register with the Board before any news coupons may be allocated to it. A news outlet shall maintain its registration as a condition of receiving funding through redemption grants pursuant to this title.

(b) To register or renew its registration, a news outlet shall submit to the Board an application setting forth the following information:

(1) Its legal name and principal office in the District;

(2) A statement indicating whether the news outlet is a for-profit entity, a non-profit entity, or a sole proprietorship;

(3) Its owners, if applicable; provided, that if a news outlet has more than three owners, the news outlet shall submit an organizational chart depicting the complete corporate ownership structure of the entities;

(4) Its governing persons, unless the news outlet is an individual;

(5) The medium or media in which the news outlet publishes local news;

(6) A brief statement indicating whether the news outlet has adopted written standards regarding editorial independence, correcting errors in reporting, and labeling commentary and, if so, whether such standards are publicly available; and

(7) Other information and agreements that the Board may require of registrants.

(c) In addition, a news outlet registering for the first time shall:

(1) Indicate the name of the bank or other depository institution that is expected to hold the program account required by section 112;
(2) Acknowledge that:

(A) The news outlet shall hold redemption grants as program funds in the program account until their expenditure, that the District shall hold a security interest in the program account, and that the District may seize control of the program account as provided in section 112 and a deposit account control agreement; and

(B) Redemption grants may result in taxable income to the news outlet;

and

(d) The form of application shall be determined by the Board.

(e) Registration shall be complete when the Board issues a notice to the news outlet that its application meets all applicable requirements; provided, that no application or registration fee shall be charged by the Board.

(f)(1) A news outlet shall renew its registration each year in accordance with procedures that may be adopted by the Board. An application for renewal shall include up-to-date information required under subsection (b) of this section and a statement of transactions involving the program account.

(2) The Board may provisionally renew the registration of a news outlet that has applied for renewal before the end of its registration period; provided, that if the renewal application discloses violations of this title, the Board may order correction of the violations or an appropriate sanction pursuant to section 113.

Sec. 104. News reporting.

(a) A registered news outlet shall:

(1) Engage in reporting on news events as its primary activity;

(2) Make its local news content accessible to District residents for free;
(3) Clearly distinguish advertising (including sponsored content) from local news content, if the news outlet receives revenue from advertising; and

(4) Notify the Board within 7 days of any change to the list of owners or governing persons of the news outlet.

(b) A news outlet may make its local news content accessible to District residents for free by:

(1) Charging no fee for publications containing local news paid for with program funds, or

(2) Publishing local news on the internet without a paywall or granting District residents no-cost credentials to access local news that is otherwise behind a paywall; provided, that a news outlet may charge District residents to access content other than local news paid for with program funds.

(c) Subject to the requirements of this title, an eligible news outlet may:

(1) Report local news in a publication that also contains other content;

(2) Request a patron to allocate a news coupon and explain how to allocate a news coupon to a news outlet;

(3) Solicit or accept a subscription or fee for the news outlet’s publications;

(4) Solicit or accept a donation, and give a gift in recognition of a donation; and

(5) Participate in any other lawful transaction that does not involve news coupons.

Sec. 105. Program funds.

(a) A news outlet receiving program funds shall:

(1) Use program funds to pay, or reimburse the news outlet for, the reasonable costs of reporting and publishing local news in any medium except television;
(2) Establish and maintain a program account and shall deposit and keep all program funds in the program account until their expenditure;

(3) Not commingle program funds with money or property from any other source;

(4) Maintain accurate records accounting for the receipt and expenditure of all program funds, together with any interest earned or investment proceeds, in sufficient detail to demonstrate compliance with this section and any rules issued by the Board to implement this section; and

(5) Notify the Board within 2 business days if the program account is closed, a new program account is established, or the name of the depository institution holding the program account is changed.

(b) Prior to the payment of any redemption grant, and at all times during which any program funds remain in a program account, there shall be in effect a deposit account control agreement described in section 112.

Sec. 106. Participation requirement.

(a) A registered news outlet meets the participation requirement for any quarter if the news outlet is the valid recipient of at least 250 news coupons in the quarter.

(b) The Board shall notify a news outlet when it meets the participation requirement for a quarter or when, having met the participation requirement in the immediately preceding quarter, it has not yet met the participation requirement for a quarter.

Sec. 107. Secure online system.

(a) The Board shall establish and maintain a secure online system to effectuate and record the issuance, allocation, and redemption of news coupons.

(b) The secure online system shall associate with each news coupon:
(1) The unique identification number of the news coupon;

(2) The patron of the news coupon or an identification number assigned to the patron;

(3) The calendar year for which the news coupon is issued; and

(4) The recipient of the news coupon in each quarter.

(c) The Board shall make available to users of the secure online system information regarding each registered news outlet, including:

(1) A summary statement, not exceeding 250 words, written about and by the news outlet;

(2) The medium or media in which the news outlet publishes local news;

(3) A statement indicating whether the news outlet is a for-profit entity, a nonprofit entity, or a sole proprietorship;

(4) A list of the owners and governing persons of the news outlet, to the extent applicable; and

(5) A summary of financial activity for the news outlet’s program account in the previous two years, if applicable.

(d) The Board shall provide effective access to the secure online system to patrons and news outlets, regardless of disability or native language.

(e) A copy of data maintained in the secure online system shall be subject to public disclosure as provided in District law.

Sec. 108. Issuance of news coupons.
(a) By the first business day of each calendar year, the Board shall issue 5 news coupons in the name of each person who was a registered voter as of the preceding December 1st, except as provided in subsection (d) of this section.

(b) The Board shall promptly issue 5 news coupons in the name of each person who becomes a newly registered voter in the District.

(c) The Board shall cancel any news coupons that have been issued in the name of any person who ceases to be a registered voter in the District; provided, that a news coupon shall not be canceled if it has been redeemed or irrevocably allocated.

(d)(1) The Board shall issue news coupons in the name of a registered voter whose mailed ballot was returned as undeliverable in the most recent general election only upon receipt of a certificate described in this subsection.

(2) The certificate shall contain the person’s oath or solemn affirmation that:

(A) The person resides in the District and no other place; and

(B) The person’s current mailing address appears correctly in the District’s voter registration records, or the person has provided a corrected mailing address for inclusion in the voter registration records.

(3) The certificate may be executed and delivered electronically through the secure online system or by any other method accepted by the Board.

(4) Upon the person’s delivery of the certificate, the Board shall in subsequent years issue news coupons in the name of the person pursuant to subsection (a) of this section, unless the person’s mailed ballot is returned as undeliverable in a subsequent general election.

(e) Upon issuance, a news voucher shall not be negotiated or otherwise transferred to any person, except as provided in section 109.
Sec. 109. Allocation of news coupons.

(a) A news coupon may be allocated as provided in this section; provided, that an allocation inconsistent with this section shall be deemed void.

(b) A news coupon may be allocated only by its patron and only to a registered news outlet. A news coupon shall not be allocated by a proxy, attorney-in-fact, or agent acting for the patron, except as provided in subsection (c)(2) of this section.

(c)(1) A news coupon shall be allocated through the secure online system.

(2) The Board shall permit a patron to provide instructions to the Board, in writing or in person, regarding the allocation of news coupons that have been issued in the patron’s name. The Board shall promptly give effect to such instructions to the fullest extent practicable.

(d) A patron may allocate to the same news outlet any whole number of news coupons that have been issued in the patron’s name. A patron may elect to continue an allocation into subsequent quarters or to revoke an allocation at the end of a quarter.

(e) The allocation of a news coupon shall be irrevocable with respect to a quarter that has begun, but a news coupon may be reallocated with respect to any upcoming quarter in the calendar year for which the news coupon is issued.

Sec. 110. Prohibited use of news coupons.

(a) No person shall:

(1) Buy, sell, or barter a news coupon or a license to allocate a news coupon, or offer to do so; or

(2) Give or receive cash or anything of value in connection with the allocation of a news coupon.
A District employee may allocate a news coupon; provided, that a District employee shall not:

(1) Use his or her official authority or influence for the purpose of promoting or discouraging the allocation of news coupons to a particular news outlet;

(2) Direct, or knowingly permit another person to direct, a subordinate to allocate or not allocate news coupons to a particular news outlet; or

(3) Be an owner or governing person of a registered news outlet, or be a registered news outlet in a personal capacity.

Sec. 111. Redemption of news coupons.

(a) As provided in this section, the Board shall on a quarterly basis redeem all news coupons that were allocated by the record date to any eligible news outlet.

(b) By 2 business days after the record date, the Board shall publish and send to each registered news outlet a redemption notice that sets forth, for the quarter:

(1) The number of news coupons that were allocated to all registered news outlets;

(2) The number of news coupons that were allocated to each eligible news outlet;

(3) The number of news coupons that were allocated to news outlets that were disqualified or not eligible;

(4) The recipient and amount in dollars of each redemption grant, and the value of the news coupons that were redeemed, calculated in accordance with subsection (c); and

(5) The redemption date.

(c)(1) On the redemption date, the Board shall cause to be delivered to each eligible news outlet a redemption grant in an amount calculated as (A) one-quarter of the annual appropriation
for redemption grants in the fiscal year of the quarter, multiplied by (B) the number of news
coupons that were allocated by the record date to the news outlet, divided by (C) the number of
news coupons that were allocated by the record date to all eligible news outlets.

(2) For the purposes of the calculation set forth in this subsection:

(A) News coupons shall be disregarded if they were allocated to a news
outlet that is disqualified or ineligible, including for failure to meet the participation requirement
for the quarter; and

(B) The calculation shall be based on the figures appearing in the
redemption notice. The Board may issue a revised redemption notice to correct an error or if a
protest motion is granted in accordance with subsection (d). If a revised redemption notice is
issued, all earlier redemption notices for the quarter shall be revoked.

(d)(1) The redemption notice may be protested by any eligible news outlet that is
aggrieved by reason other than disqualification. Any protest shall be initiated within 3 business
days of publication of the redemption notice by filing a motion with the Board. The motion shall
set forth the basis for the protest and the additional amount that is claimed by the news outlet.
The Board shall cause a copy of the motion to be delivered to each eligible news outlet.

(2) Within 48 hours of the filing of the motion, any eligible news outlet may file a
response to the motion.

(3) The Board may hold a hearing on any or all issues necessary to decide a
motion.

(4) The Board shall decide the motion no later than 2 calendar days before the last
business day of the quarter. The Board may summarily deny the motion at any time after its
filing, but the Board shall explain the reasons for a summary denial no later than 15 days after
the date of redemption.

(5) The Board may grant the motion no earlier than 48 hours after its filing or 24
hours after the filing of the latest timely response filed pursuant to paragraph (2), whichever is
less.

(6) For purposes of a motion filed under this subsection, information recorded in
the secure online system shall be presumed true and accurate, unless the Board finds otherwise
by clear and convincing evidence.

(e) Redemption grants shall be exempt from the requirements of the Grant Administration
§ 1-328.11 et seq.).

Sec. 112. Security interest in program account.

(a) Before the receipt of its first redemption grant, a news outlet shall execute a deposit
account control agreement with the depository institution in favor of the District, through the
Board, as secured party. The agreement shall create a security interest in the program account to
secure the news outlet’s obligation to comply with this title.

(b) The agreement shall permit the District, through the Board, to take control of the
program account while an event of default has occurred and is continuing, subject to reasonable
cure periods set forth in the agreement.

(c) The agreement shall manifest the news outlet’s consent to the filing of a financing
statement, and any modifications or continuation statements, to give notice of the District’s
security interest in the program account.
(d) The District’s security interest in the program account shall be perfected upon execution of the deposit account control agreement and shall have priority over all other liens of any type whatsoever, except liens that may attach from time to time for federal, state, or District taxes due.

(e) The Board shall file or cause to be filed a financing statement, and any modifications or continuation statements, in accordance with the Uniform Commercial Code—Secured Transactions, effective October 26, 2000 (D.C. Law 13-201; D.C. Official Code § 28:9-101 et seq.), but no failure to file or defect in such statement shall affect the perfection or priority of the District’s security interest in the program account.

(f) In the event that the District, through the Board, takes control of a program account, amounts available in the program account shall be used to take any action necessary to comply with this title or a Board order.

(g)(1) If a news outlet is disqualified, fails to renew its registration, or otherwise terminates its participation in the public funding system established by this title, the Board shall immediately exercise control of the program account pursuant to the deposit account control agreement.

(2) During a period of such control, the Board shall permit expenditures from the program account only for reasonable costs that were incurred in furtherance of the purposes of this title prior to the Board’s assumption of control.

(3) If the duration of the control period exceeds 30 days, the Board or its designee may in its discretion pay the balance of the program account to the General Fund of the District.

(h) When the Board has determined that all actions necessary to comply with this title or its orders have occurred, the District shall:
(1) Relinquish control of the program account, subject to the District’s right to retake control in accordance with the deposit account control agreement; or

(2) If the news outlet has been disqualified from all future participation in the program, the program account shall be closed.

(i) All parties to the deposit account control agreement shall accept jurisdiction in the District of Columbia. District law shall govern the interpretation and enforcement of the agreement.

(j) The District shall not be liable to any person for the debts or obligations of any program account or news outlet.

Sec. 113. Community Journalism Board.

(a) There is established a Community Journalism Board as an independent body of the executive branch to administer the provisions of this title.

(b) The Board shall have 7 members serving without compensation and appointed as follows:

(1) One member shall be appointed by the Board of Elections;

(2) One member shall be appointed by the Board of Library Trustees;

(3) One member shall be appointed by the Commission on Arts and Humanities;

(4) One member, who shall have at least 5 years of professional experience as a news reporter or editor, shall be nominated by the Mayor;

(5) One member, who shall have significant legal experience relating to the First Amendment, shall be appointed by the Attorney General;

(6) One member shall be appointed by the State Board of Education; and

(7) One member shall be appointed by the humanities council.
(c) (1) Each member of the Board shall be appointed to a 6-year term, except that the initial term of the members appointed pursuant to subsection (b)(4), (5), (6), and (7) of this section shall be 3 years.

(2) A member may continue to serve for up to 90 days beyond the expiration of the member’s term, if no successor has been confirmed.

(d) A minimum of four members shall be necessary to establish a quorum. The Board may adopt rules to govern its meetings; provided, that such rules shall not conflict with any provision of this title or the Open Meetings Act, effective March 31, 2011 (D.C. Law 18-350; D.C. Official Code § 2-571 et seq.).

(e) The Board shall select from its members a president and such other officers as it may determine are necessary. The Board shall designate a secretary, who may be a member or an employee of the Board.

(f) No member of the Board shall act in a personal capacity as a registered news outlet, be an owner, governing person, or employee of a registered news outlet, or otherwise benefit financially from any transaction or arrangement with a registered news outlet.

(g) No member of the Board shall act in a manner that displays improper favoritism toward a news outlet or that compromises, or appears to compromise, the editorial independence of a news outlet.

(h)(1) A member may be removed for good cause by a two-thirds vote of the Board’s members.

(2) Members may be removed by their respective appointing authorities.

(3) A vacancy on the Board shall be filled by the appointing authority for the remainder of the unexpired term.
The Board and its designees shall have the power:

(1) To require any news outlet that is registered or has applied to be registered to submit, within a reasonable time, written reports or answers to questions as the Board may consider necessary;

(2) To investigate alleged violations of this title in response to complaints or on the Board’s initiative, and to convene evidentiary hearings and administer oaths and affirmations;

(3) To compel by subpoena the deposition of witnesses or the production of records if necessary to investigate an alleged violation of this title;

(4) To issue written findings and conclusions supporting a determination by the Board of a violation of this title and, upon such a determination, to issue remedial orders, impose fines, and disqualify for an appropriate period of time a news outlet or person from participating in any way in the public funding system established by this title; provided, that a disqualification order shall be issued only upon a two-thirds vote of the Board;

(5) To ensure compliance with this title and the Board’s orders by exercising control of a program account pursuant to a deposit account control agreement; and

(6) In case of a failure or refusal to obey a subpoena or order issued by the Board, to petition the Superior Court to punish such refusal as contempt.

(j) The Board may enter into contracts, hire employees, and delegate authority to employees as may be necessary to carry out the purposes of this title, subject to appropriations made for the Board’s operations. The District shall furnish to the Board such records, information, services, facilities, and equipment as the Board may require to perform its functions.
(k) The Board may issue rules to carry out the provisions of this title, subject to the provisions of An Act to prescribe administrative procedures for the District of Columbia government, approved October 21, 1968 (82 Stat. 1204; D.C. Official Code § 2-501 et seq.).

Sec. 114. Journalism development grants.

(a) The Board may award journalism development grants to organizations or individuals providing training or technical assistance to news outlets.

(b) The Board may award one or more journalism development grants to the humanities council, notwithstanding any provision of section 1094 of the Grant Administration Act of 2013, effective December 24, 2013 (Subtitle I-J of D.C. Law 20-61; D.C. Official Code § 1-328.13).

Sec. 115. Authorization of appropriations; program implementation.

(a) Local funds and any other legally available sources are authorized to be appropriated for redemption grants, journalism development funds, administrative expenses of the Board, and any other expense of this title.

(b) After the inclusion of the fiscal effect of this title in an approved budget and financial plan, the amount annually appropriated for redemption grants shall:

1. Equal 0.1% (one-tenth of one percent) of General Fund appropriations for operating expenditures in the District’s approved budget and financial plan for the immediately preceding fiscal year, as of October 1 of such fiscal year; and

2. Be clearly set forth in any budget that is proposed or adopted pursuant to sections 442 and 446(a) of the Home Rule Act, approved December 24, 1973 (87 Stat. 798, 801; D.C. Official Code §§ 1-204.42, .46(a)), excluding supplemental budgets that do not alter the amount appropriated for redemption grants in the fiscal year.
(c) Notwithstanding any other provision of this title, and only during the first fiscal year
of the Local News Grant Program:

(1) The costs of launching the program and developing the secure online system
shall be charged against the amount described in subsection (b)(1); and

(2) The Board may select any quarter in the fiscal year to launch the issuance of
news coupons and payment of redemption grants.

**TITLE II. CONFORMING AMENDMENTS; APPLICABILITY; FISCAL IMPACT; EFFECTIVE DATE.**

Sec. 201. Section 2(e) of the Confirmation Act of 1978, effective March 3, 1979 (D.C.
Law 2-142; D.C. Official Code § 1-523.01(e)), is amended as follows:

(1) The penultimate paragraph is amended by striking the phrase “; and” and
inserting a semicolon in its place;

(2) The last paragraph is amended by striking the period at the end of the
paragraph and inserting the phrase “; and” in its place; and

(3) A new, sequentially numbered paragraph is added to read as follows:
“(XX) Members of the Community Journalism Board who are nominated by the
Mayor pursuant to section 113 of the Local News Funding Act of 2023 (Introduced version of
B25-____).”.

Sec. 202. Section 206(a) the District of Columbia Administrative Procedure Act,
effective March 29, 1977 (D.C. Law § 1-96; D.C. Official Code § 2-536(a)), is amended by
inserting a new paragraph (8B) to read as follows:
“(8B) A copy, updated and published on a quarterly basis in a comma-separated value format, of data described in section 107(b) of the Local News Funding Act of 2023 (Introduced version of B25-___).”.

Sec. 203. Section 5 of the Consumer Protection Procedures Act, effective July 22, 1976 (D.C. Law 1-76; D.C. Official Code § 28-3904), is amended as follows:

(1) Subsection (ll) is amended by striking the period at the end of the subsection and inserting the phrase “; and” in its place.

(2) A new subsection (mm) is added to read as follows:

“(mm) Violate sections 109(b) or 110(a) of the Local News Funding Act of 2023 (Introduced version of B25-___), or make a false or misleading statement to induce the allocation of a news coupon to a news outlet.”.

Sec. 204. Applicability.

(a) This act shall apply upon the date of inclusion of its fiscal effect in an approved budget and financial plan.

(b) The Chief Financial Officer shall certify the date of inclusion of the fiscal effect in an approved budget and financial plan, and provide notice to the Budget Director of the Council of the certification.

(c)(1) The Budget Director shall cause the notice of the certification to be published in the District of Columbia Register.

(2) The date of publication of the notice of the certification shall not affect the applicability of this act.

Sec. 205. Fiscal impact statement.

Sec. 206. Effective date.

This act shall take effect following approval by the Mayor (or, in the event of veto by the Mayor, action by the Council to override the veto), a 30-day period of congressional review as provided in section 602(c)(1) of the District of Columbia Home Rule Act, approved December 24, 1973 (87 Stat. 813; D.C. Official Code § 1-206.02(c)(1)), and publication in the District of Columbia Register.